

Substitute Form PTO-1449 (Modified)	U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Attorney's Docket No. 14170-061001	Application No. 09/996,978
Information Disclosure Statement Applicant (Use several sheets if necessary) (37 CFR §1.98(b))		Applicant Mark D. Markel	
		Filing Date October 31, 2001	Group Art Unit

U.S. Patent Documents							
Examiner Initial	Design ID	Patent Number	Issue Date	Patentee	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	AA						
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						

Foreign Patent Documents or Published Foreign Patent Applications								
Examiner Initial	Design ID	Document Number	Publication Date	Country or Patent Office	Class	Subclass	Translation	
							Yes	No
	AL							
	AM							
	AN							
	AO							
	AP							

Other Documents (include Author, Title, Date, and Place of Publication)		
Examiner Initial	Design ID	Document
A.R.	AQ	U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/780,648, filed February 8, 2001, Sharkey et al., entitled "Method and Apparatus for Treatment of Disrupted Articular Cartilage"
A.R.	AR	Organ, L.W., "Electrophysiologic Principles of Radiofrequency Lesion Making," <u>Applied Neurophysiology</u> , Vol. 39, 1976/77, pp. 69-76
A.R.	AS	Lu, Yan, et al., "Lavage Solution Temperature Influences Depth of Chondrocyte Death and Surface Contouring During Thermal Chondroplasty with Temperature-Controlled Monopolar Radiofrequency Energy," <u>American Journal of Sports Medicine</u> , Vol. 3, No. 5, Sept.-Oct. 2002, pp. 667-673
	AT	

Examiner Signature <i>Adrian Boone</i>	Date Considered 3/7/2003
EXAMINER: Initials citation considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				MAR 07 2002		Complete if Known		
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				Application Number		09/996,978		
				Filing Date		October 31, 2001		
				First Named Inventor		Mark D. Markel		
				Group Art Unit		3731		
				Examiner Name		to be assigned		
Sheet		1		of		4		
Attorney Docket Number		A-70829/ENB						
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear		
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)					
A.R.	A1	164,184		KIDDER	08/08/1875			
	B1	300,155		STARR	06/10/1894			
	C1	371,664		BRANNAN et al.	10/18/1887			
	D1	452,220		GUNNING	05/12/1891			
	E1	1,314,855		CARPENTER	09/02/1919			
	F1	1,366,756		WAPPLER	01/25/1921			
	G1	1,731,627		JOHNSON et al.	10/15/1929			
	H1	1,735,271		GROFF	12/12/1929			
	I1	1,814,791		ENDE	07/14/1931			
	J1	1,908,583		WAPPLER	05/09/1933			
	K1	1,916,722		ENDE	07/04/1933			
	L1	1,932,258		WAPPLER	10/24/1933			
	M1	1,943,543		McFADDEN	01/16/1934			
	N1	1,983,669		KIMBLE	11/11/1934			
	O1	2,002,594		WAPPLER et al.	05/28/1935			
	P1	2,004,559		WAPPLER et al.	06/11/1935			
A.R.	Q1	2,050,904		TRICE	08/11/1936			
	R1							
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ² (if known)				
A.R.	S1	GB	2,160,102	A	RICHARD WOLF GmbH	12/18/1985		
	T1							
	U1							
	V1							
	W1							
	X1							
	Y1							
	Z1							
Examiner Signature		<i>Arnon Levine</i>				Date Considered	5/27/2004	

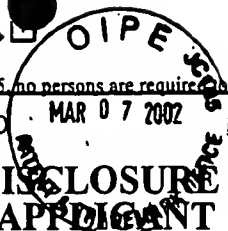
*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English Language Translation is attached.

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/996,978
Filing Date	October 31, 2001
First Named Inventor	Mark D. Markel
Group Art Unit	3731
Examiner Name	to be assigned
Attorney Docket Number	A-70829/ENB

Sheet 2 of 4

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
A.R.	A2	2,056,377		WAPPLER	10/06/1936	
	B2	2,224,464		WOLF	12/10/1940	
	C2	2,275,167		BIERMAN	03/03/1942	
	D2	2,888,928		SEIGER	06/02/1959	
	E2	3,152,590		ZURDO et al.	10/13/1964	
	F2	3,163,165		ISAKAWA	12/29/1964	
	G2	3,460,539		ANHALT, SR.	08/12/1969	
	H2	3,595,239		PETERSEN	07/27/1971	
	I2	3,768,482		SHAW	10/30/1973	
	J2	3,828,780		MORRISON, JR.	08/13/1974	
	K2	3,870,047		GONSER	03/11/1975	
	L2	3,901,242		STORZ	08/26/1975	
	M2	3,902,494		HABERLIN	09/02/1975	
	N2	3,920,021		HILTEBRANDT	11/18/1975	
	O2	3,920,022		PASTOR	11/18/1975	
	P2	3,938,527		RIOUX et al.	02/17/1976	
A.R.	Q2	3,987,795		MORRISON	10/26/1976	
	R2					

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ² (if known)				
	S2							
	T2							
	U2							
	V2							
	W2							
	X2							
	Y2							
	Z2							

Examiner Signature

Adrian R. Rame

Date Considered

5/27/2004

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		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
A.R.	A3	4,927,420		NEWKIRK et al.	05/22/1990	
	B3	5,277,696		HAGEN	01/11/1994	
	C3	5,281,218		IMRAN	01/25/1994	
	D3	5,458,596		LAX et al.	10/17/1995	
	E3	5,514,130		BAKER	05/07/1996	
	F3	5,643,255		ORGAN	07/01/1997	
	G3	5,785,705		BAKER	07/21/1998	
	H3	6,068,628		FANTON et al.	05/30/2000	
A.R.	I3	6,135,999		FANTON et al.	10/24/2000	
	J3					
	K3					
	L3					
	M3					
	N3					
	O3					
	P3					
	Q3					
	R3					

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials ⁶	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ² (if known)				
	S							
	T							
	U							
	V							
	W							
	X							
	Y							
	Z							

Examiner Signature	<i>Arion Brown</i>	Date Considered	5/27/2004
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		Applicant Mark D. Markel	
		Filing Date October 31, 2001	Group Art Unit 3739
		Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant (Use several sheets if necessary)	

(37 CFR §1.98(b))

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		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A1					
A.R.	B1	5,843,078		SHARKEY	12/01/1998	
	C1	5,814,040		NELSON et al.	09/29/1998	
	D1	5,810,809		RYDELL	08/1998	
	E1	5,782,795		BAYS	07/1998	
	F1	5,718,702		EDWARDS	02/1998	
A.R.	G1	5,697,909		EGGERS et al.	12/1997	
	H1					
A.R.	I1	5,688,270		YATES et al.	11/1997	
	J1	5,683,366		EGGERS et al.	11/1997	
	K1	5,681,282		EGGERS et al.	10/1997	
	L1	5,630,839		CORBETT, III et al.	05/1997	
	M1	5,599,346		EDWARDS et al.	02/1997	
	N1	5,569,242		LAX et al.	10/1996	
	O1	5,542,920		CHEIKH	08/1996	
	P1	5,527,331		KRESCH et al.	06/1996	
A.R.	Q1	5,524,338		MARTYNIUK et al.	06/1996	
	R1					

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
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		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ² (if known)				
A.R.	S1	EP.	0 257 116	A1	Teletronics N.V.	03/1988		
	T1	EP.	0 274 705	A1	Erlinrud Frimberger	07/1988	abstract	
	U1	EP.	0 479 482	A1	Megadyne Medical Products Inc.	04/1992		
	V1	EP.	0 521 595	A2	Lundquist, I.	01/1993		
	W1	EP.	0 542 412	A1	Everest Medical Corp.	05/1993		
	X1	EP.	0 558 297	A2	Japan Crescent Inc.	09/1993		
A.R.	Y1	EP.	0 566 450	A1	Inst. Nat Sante Rech. Med	10/1993	abstract	
	Z1							

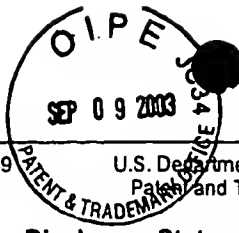
Examiner Signature <i>Amnon Shanon</i>	Date Considered 1/31/2004
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		Applicant Mark D. Markel	
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		Number	Kind Code ¹ (if known)			
	A2					
A.R.	B2	5,507,812		MOORE	04/1996	
	C2	5,500,012		BRUCKER et al.	03/1996	
	D2	5,498,258		HAKKY et al.	03/1996	
	E2	5,487,757		TRUCKAI et al.	01/1996	
	F2	5,486,170		WINSTON et al.	01/23/1996	
	G2	5,484,435		FLEENOR et al.	01/1996	
	H2	5,484,432		SAND	01/1996	
	I2	5,484,403		YOAKUM et al.	01/1996	
	J2	5,465,737		SCHACHAR	11/1995	
A.R.	K2	5,464,023		VIERA	11/1995	
	L2					
A.R.	M2	5,451,223		BEN-SIMHON	09/1995	
	N2	5,437,662		NARDELLA	08/01/1995	
A.R.	O2	5,437,661		RIESER	08/1995	
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		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ² (if known)				
A.R.	S2	EP.	0 572 131	A1	Everest Medical Corp.	12/1993		
	T2	EP.	0 682 910	A1	Guenther et al.	11/1995	abstract	
	U2	EP.	0 479 482	B1	Megadyne Medical Products Inc.	05/1996		
	V2	EP.	0 729 730	A1	Aust, Gilbert et al.	09/1996		
	W2	EP.	0 737 487	A2	Cardiorhythm	10/1996		
	X2	EP.	0 783 903	A1	Bruker Sa	07/1997	abstract	
A.R.	Y2	FR.	1122634		Technomed Int. Sa	09/1956	abstract	
	Z2							

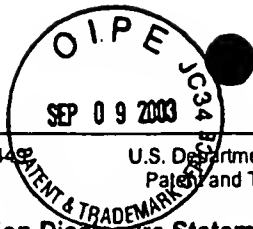
Examiner Signature	<i>Carol P. [Signature]</i>	Date Considered	11/31/2004
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		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
A.R.	A3	5,433,739		SLUIJTER et al.	07/1995	
	B3	5,428,699		PON	07/27/1995	
	C3	5,423,806		DALE et al.	06/1995	
	D3	5,415,633		LAZARUS et al.	05/1995	
	E3	5,409,481		POPPAS et al.	04/25/1995	
	F3	5,401,272		PERKINS	03/1995	
	G3	5,397,304		TRUCKAI	03/1995	
	H3	5,382,247		CIMINO et al.	01/1995	
	I3	5,366,490		EDWARDS et al.	11/1994	
	J3	5,366,443		EGGERS et al.	11/1994	
	K3	5,364,395		WEST, JR.	11/1994	
	L3	5,354,331		SCHACHAR	10/1994	
	M3	5,352,868		DENEN et al.	10/1994	
	N3	5,348,554		IMRAN et al.	09/1994	
	O3	5,342,357		NARDELLA	08/1994	
	P3	5,334,193		NARDELLA	08/1994	
A.R.	Q3	5,323,778		KANDARPA et al.	06/1994	
	R3					

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		Office ¹	Number ¹	Kind Code ² (if known)			
A.R.	S3	FR.	2 645 008		Technomed Int. SA	03/1989	abstract
	T3	DE.	3511107	A1	Fischer Met Gmbh	10/1986	abstract
	U3	DE.	3632197	A1	Audi Nsu Auto Union	03/1988	abstract
	V3	JP.	05-042166		Inter Noba KK	05/1993	abstract
	W3	SU.	637118	A	Movshovich et al.	12/1978	
	X3	GB.	1 340 451		Golyakhovsky	12/1973	
A.R.	Y3	GB.	2 164 473	A	C R Bard Inc.	03/1986	
	Z3						

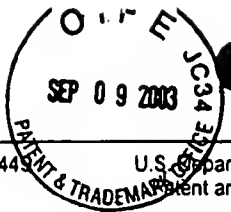
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Substitute Form PTO-1449 (Modified)	U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Attorney's Docket No. 14170-061001	Application No. 09/996,978
		Applicant Mark D. Markel	
		Filing Date October 31, 2001	Group Art Unit 3739

**Information Disclosure Statement
by Applicant**
(Use several sheets if necessary)

(37 CFR §1.98(b))

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
A.R.	A4	5,320,115		KENNA	06/1994	
	B4	5,311,858		ADAIR	05/1994	
	C4	5,308,311		EGGERS et al.	05/1994	
	D4	5,304,169		SAND	04/1994	
	E4	5,284,479		DE JONG	02/1994	
	F4	5,275,151		SHOCKEY et al.	01/1994	
	G4	5,267,994		GENTELIA et al.	12/1993	
	H4	5,261,906		PENNINO et al.	11/1993	
	I4	5,242,441		AVITALL	09/1993	
	J4	5,242,439		LARSEN et al.	09/1993	
	K4	5,230,334		KLOPOTEK	07/1993	
	L4	5,213,097		ZEINDLER	05/1993	
	M4	5,201,731		HAKKY	04/1993	
	N4	5,201,730		EASLEY et al.	04/1993	
	O4	5,201,729		HERTZMANN et al.	04/1993	
	P4	5,192,267		SHAPIRA et al.	03/1993	
A.R.	Q4	5,191,883		LENNOX et al.	03/1993	
	R4					

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ² (if known)				
A.R.	S4	WO	WO 85/02762	A1	Kh Hii Obschei Noetlozh Khirug	07/1985	abstract	
I	T4	WO	WO 92/10142	A1	Pfizer Hospital Products Group	06/1992		
	U4	WO	WO 93/01774	A1	Boeckmann Alfred Dipl Ing	02/1993	abstract	
	V4	WO	WO 93/16648	A1	Kensey Nash Corp.	09/1993		
	W4	WO	WO 93/20984	A1	Zhi et al.	10/1993		
A.R.	X4	WO	WO 95/01814	A1	Urologix Inc.	01/1995		
	Y4	WO	WO 95/13113	A1	Somed International Inc.	05/1995		
	Z4							

Examiner Signature <i>Adrian Brane</i>	Date Considered 11/31/2004
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¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English Language Translation is attached.

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		Applicant Mark D. Markel	
		Filing Date October 31, 2001	Group Art Unit 3739

**Information Disclosure Statement
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(37 CFR §1.98(b))

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
A.R.	A5	5,186,181		FRANCONI et al.	02/1993	
	B5	5,178,620		EGGERS et al.	01/1993	
	C5	5,103,804		ABELE et al.	04/1992	
	D5	5,100,402		FAN	03/1992	
	E5	5,098,430		FLEENOR	03/1992	
	F5	5,085,659		RYDELL	02/1992	
	G5	5,085,657		BEN-SIMHON	02/1992	
	H5	5,027,792		MEYER	07/02/1991	
	I5	5,009,656		REIMELS	04/1991	
	J5	5,007,908		RYDELL	04/1991	
	K5	4,998,933		EGGERS et al.	03/1991	
	L5	4,976,715		BAYS et al.	12/1990	
	M5	4,976,709		SAND	12/1990	
	N5	4,966,597		COSMAN	10/1990	
	O5	4,955,882		HAKKY	09/1990	
	P5	4,950,234		FUJIOKA et al.	08/1990	
A.R.	Q5	4,944,727		MCCOY	07/1990	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁴
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ² (if known)				
A.R.	S5	WO	WO 95/18575	A1	Vadamed, Inc.	07/1995		
I	T5	WO	WO 95/20360	A1	Valley lab Inc.	08/1995		
	U5	WO	WO 95/25471	A2	Valleylab Inc.	09/1995		
	V5	WO	WO 95/30373	A1	Dorsal Orthopedic Corp.	11/1995		
	W5	WO	WO 95 /30377	A1	Dahlstrand	11/1995		
	X5	WO	WO 95/34259	A1	Desai et al.	12/1995		
A.T.R.	Y5	WO	WO 96/11638	A1	Femurx	04/1996		
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Examiner Signature <i>Carson Boone</i>	Date Considered 1/31/2004
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		Applicant Mark D. Markel	
		Filing Date October 31, 2001	Group Art Unit 3739

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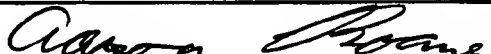
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
A.R.	A6	4,924,865		BAYS et al.	05/1990	
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	C6	4,907,585		SCHACHAR	03/1990	
	D6	4,895,148		BAYS et al.	01/1990	
	E6	4,894,063		NASHEF	01/1990	
	F6	4,873,976		SCHREIBER	10/1989	
	G6	4,838,859		STRASSMANN	06/1989	
	H6	4,815,462		CLARK	03/1989	
	I6	4,811,733		BORSANYI et al.	03/1989	
	J6	4,651,734		DOSS et al.	03/1987	
	K6	4,601,705		MCCOY	07/1986	
	L6	4,597,379		KIHN et al.	07/1986	
	M6	4,593,691		LINDSTROM et al.	06/1986	
	N6	4,590,934		MALIS et al.	05/1986	
	O6	4,517,975		GARITO et al.	05/1985	
	P6	4,517,965		ELLISON	05/1985	
A.R.	Q6	4,483,338		BLOOM et al.	11/1984	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ² (if known)			
A.R.	S6	WO	WO 96/32051	A1	Arthrocare Corp.	10/1996	
	T6	WO	WO 96/34568	A1	Knowlton, E.	11/1996	
	U6	WO	WO 96/34571	A1	Cosman, E.	11/1996	
	V6	WO	WO 96/39914	A1	Arthrocare Corp.	12/1996	
	W6	WO	WO 97/06855	A2	Rita Medical Systems, Inc.	02/1997	
A.R.	X6	WO	WO 98/07468	A1	Oratec Interventions, Inc.	02/1998	
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	Z6						

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Substitute Form PTO-1449 (Modified)	U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Attorney's Docket No. 14170-061001	Application No. 09/996,978
		Applicant Mark D. Markel	
		Filing Date October 31, 2001	Group Art Unit 3739

Information Disclosure Statement
by Applicant
(Use several sheets if necessary)

(37 CFR §1.98(b))

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
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		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
A.K.	A7	4,476,862		PAO	10/1984	
	B7	4,397,314		VAGUINE	08/1983	
	C7	4,381,007		DOSS	04/1983	
	D7	4,375,220		MATVIAS	03/1983	
	E7	4,362,160		HILTEBRANDT	12/1982	
	F7	4,344,193		KENNY	08/1982	
	G7	4,326,529		DOSS et al.	04/1982	
	H7	4,224,697		MURRAY et al.	09/1980	
	I7	4,224,696		MURRAY et al.	09/1980	
	J7	4,134,406		IGLESIAS	01/1979	
	K7	4,129,470		HOMSY	12/1978	
	L7	4,085,466		GOODFELLOW et al.	04/1978	
	M7	4,074,718		MORRISON	02/1978	
	N7	4,043,342		MORRISON, JR.	08/1977	
	O7	3,992,725		HOMSY	11/1976	
	P7	3,987,499		SCHARBACH et al.	10/1976	
A.K.	Q7	3,945,375		BANKO	03/1976	
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	T7					
	U7					
	V7					
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁴
		Office ³	Number ² (if known)				
	X7						
	Y7						
	Z7						

Examiner Signature <i>Adam Boone</i>	Date Considered 1/31/2004
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Substitute Form PTO-1449 (Modified) Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant (Use several sheets if necessary) (37 CFR §1.98(b))	U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Attorney's Docket No. 14170-061001	Application No. 09/996,978
	Applicant Mark D. Markel		
	Filing Date October 31, 2001	Group Art Unit 3739	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
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		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
A.R.	A8	3,938,198		KAHN et al.	02/1976	
	B8	3,886,600		KAHN et al.	06/1975	
	C8	3,879,767		SUBSTAD	04/1975	
	D8	3,867,728		SUBSTAD et al.	02/1975	
	E8	3,856,015		IGLESIAS	12/1974	
	F8	3,821,510		MUNCHERYAN	06/28/1974	
	G8	3,776,230		NEEFE	12/1973	
	H8	3,579,643		MORGAN	05/1971	
	I8	3,178,728		CHRISTENSEN	04/1965	
A.R.	J8	2,090,923		WAPPLER	08/1937	
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	M8					
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		Office ²	Number ³	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	X8						
	Y8						
	Z8						

Examiner Signature	<i>Rayon Boone</i>	Date Considered	1/31/2004
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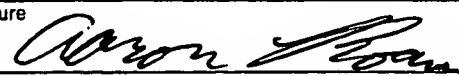
Substitute Form PTO-1449 (Modified) Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant (Use several sheets if necessary) (37 CFR §1.98(b))	U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Attorney's Docket No. 14170-061001	Application No. 09/996,978
	Applicant Mark D. Markel		
	Filing Date October 31, 2001	Group Art Unit 3739	

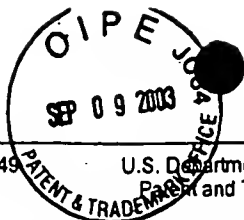
U.S. Patent Documents							
Examiner Initial	Desig. ID	Document Number	Publication Date	Patentee	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
A.R.	IA	6,602,248	8/5/03	Sharps et al.			
	IB	6,544,260	4/8/03	Markel et al.			
	IC	6,482,204	11/19/02	Lax et al.			
	ID	6,149,620	11/21/00	Baker et al.			
	IE	6,066,134	5/23/00	Eggers et al.			
	IF	5,609,151	3/11/97	Mulier et al.			
	IG	5,431,649	7/11/95	Mulier et al.			
A.R.	IH	5,725,524	3/10/98	Mulier et al.			
	II						
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	IK						

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Foreign Patent Documents or Published Foreign Patent Applications								
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	IL							
	IM							
	IN							
	IO							
	IP							

Other Documents (include Author, Title, Date, and Place of Publication)		
Examiner Initial	Desig. ID	Document
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	IR	
	IS	
	IT	

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Substitute Form PTO-1449 (Modified)	U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Attorney's Docket No.	Application No.
		14170-061001	09/996,978
		Applicant	
		Mark D. Markel	
Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant (Use several sheets if necessary)		Filing Date	Group Art Unit
		October 31, 2001	3739
(37 CFR §1.98(b))			

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
A.R.	A10	Attachment I: Competitive Literature on Generators with Bipolar Capabilities, IME Co., Ltd., pp. 60-86.	
I	B10	Attachment II: Competitive Literature on Bipolar Forceps and Footswitch Controls, IME Co., Ltd. pp. 87-104.	
A.R.	C10	AUHLL, Richard A., "The Use of the Resectoscope in Gynecology," Biomedical Business International. Oct. 11, 1990, pp. 91-93.	
	D10		
A.R.	E10	BOSACCO et al., "Functional Results of Percutaneous Laser Discectomy," The American Journal of Orthopedics, Dec. 1996, pp. 825-828.	
I	F10	BROMM et al., "Nerve Fibre Discharges, Cerebral Potentials and Sensations Induced by CO2 Laser Stimulation", Human Neurobiology, vol. 3, (1984) pp. 33-40.	
	G10	BUCHELT et al., "Fluorescence Guided Excimer Laser Ablation of Intervertebral Discs In Vitro," Lasers in Surgery and Medicine, vol. 11, (1991) pp. 280-286.	
	H10	BUCHELT et al., "Erb:YAG and Hol:YAG Laser Ablation of Meniscus and Intervertebral Discs," Lasers in Surgery and Medicine, vol. 12 No. 4, (1992) pp. 375-381.	
	I10	CHOY et al., "Percutaneous Laser Disc Decompression: A New Therapeutic Modality", Spine, vol. 17 No. 8, (1992) pp. 949-956.	
	J10	CHRISTIAN, C. et al., "Allograft Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction with Patellar Tendon: An Endoscopic Technique", Operative Techniques in Sports Medicine, vol. 1, No. 1, Jan. 1993, pp. 50-57.	
	K10	COSMAN et al., "Theoretical Aspects of Radiofrequency lesions in the Dorsal Root Entry Zone," Neurosurgery, vol. 15 No. 6 (1984) pp. 945-950.	
	L10	COSSET, J.M., Resistive Radiofrequency (Low Frequency) Interstitial Heating (RF Technique), Interstitial Hyperthermia, Dec. 6, 1993, pp. 2-5, 37.	
	M10	DAVIS, "Early experience with Laser Disc Decompression", Florida M.A., 79(1) 37-39 (1992).	
	N10	Ellman International Mfg., Inc., 1989, Catalog, pp. 1-15, 20.	
	O10	GEHRING W.J., "Exploring the Homeobox," Gene, 135, (1993), pp. 215-221.	
	P10	GERBER et al., Der Orthopade: Offene Laserchirurgie am Bewegungsapparat, vol. 25, (1996) pp. 56-63.	
A.R.	Q10	GOTTLLOB et al., "Holmium:YAG Laser Ablation of Human Intervertebral Disc: Preliminary Evaluation," Lasers in Surgery and Medicine, vol. 12, (1991) pp. 86-91.	
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	T10		

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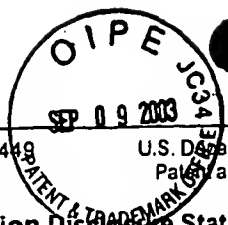
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Examiner Signature	<i>W. J. Gehring</i>	Date Considered	1/31/2004
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		Applicant Mark D. Markel	
		Filing Date October 31, 2001	Group Art Unit 3739

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A.R.	A11	HOUP, J. et al., "Experimental Study of Temperature Distributions and Thermal Transport During Radiofrequency Current Therapy of the Intervertebral Disc", Spine, vol. 21, No. 15, (1996), pp. 1808-1813.	
	B11	Introduction to the LDD Disc Kit, Oct. 16, 1996.	
	C11	KELLY L.E., "Purification and Properties of a 23kDa Ca ²⁺ -binding Protein," Biochem. J. (1990) 271, pp. 661-666.	
	D11	KOLARIK et al., "Photonucleolysis of Intervertebral Disc and it's Herniation," Research Institute of Higher Nervous Activity, vol. 51; (1990) pp. 69-71.	
	E11	LEU et al., "Endoskopie der Wirbelsaule: Minimal-invasive Therapie," Der Orthopade, vol. 21, (1992) pp. 267-272.	
	F11	MAYER et al., "Lasers in Percutaneous Disc Surgery: Beneficial Technology or Gimmick?," Acta Orthop Scand., vol. 25 No. 251 (1993) pp. 38-44.	
	G11	McCULLOCH et al., "Percutaneous Radiofrequency Lumbar Rhizolysis (rhizotomy)," DMA Journal, vol. 116, 30-32, Jan. 8, 1977.	
	H11	MEHTA et al., "The Treatment of Chronic back Pain: A Preliminary survey of the Effect of Radiofrequency Denervation of the Posterior Vertebral Joints", Anaesthesia, vol. 34 (1979) pp. 768-775.	
	I11	PATIL et al., "Percutaneous Discectomy Using the Electromagnetic Field Focusing Probe: A Feasibility Study", Int. Surg., 76:30-32 (1991).	
	J11	PHILLIPS et al., "MR Imaging of Ho; YAG Laser Discectomy with Histologic Correlation", JMRI, vol. 3 No. 3, May/Jun. 1993.	
	K10	PRNewswire (Dec. 12, 1994), Two Physicians Perform First Outpatient Cervical Disc Procedure Using Laser Technology.	
	L10	QUIGLEY et al., "Laser Discectomy: Comparison of Systems", Spine, vol. 19 No. 3 (1994) pp. 319-322.	
	M11	SAVITZ M.A., "Same-day Microsurgical Arthroscopic lateral-approach Laser-assisted (SMALL) Fluoroscopic Discectomy," J. Neurosurg., vol. 80, Jun. 1994 pp. 1039-1045.	
	N11	SCHATZ et al., "Preliminary Experience With Percutaneous Laser Disc Decompression in the Treatment of Sciatica," CJS JCC, vol. 38, No. 5, Oct. 1995, pp. 432-436.	
A.R.	O11	SLUIJTER et al., "Treatment of Chronic Back and Neck Pain by Percutaneous Therman Lesions," Persistent Pain: Modern Methods of Treatment, Vol. 3, Sampson Lipton E.D. 141-179 (1981).	
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	Q11		
	R11		

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		Applicant Mark D. Markel	
		Filing Date October 31, 2001	Group Art Unit 3739

**Information Disclosure Statement
by Applicant**
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A.R.	A12	SLUYTER, "The use of Radio Frequency Lesions For Pain Relief in Failed Back Patients," Int Disabil Studies vol. 10(1), Sep. 4, 1996, pp. 37-43.	
	B12	SLUYTER, "Radiofrequency Lesions in the Treatment of Cervical Pain Syndromes," Radionics, Inc. 2-24 (1989).	
	C12	SMINIA et al., "Effects of 434 MHz Microwave Hyperthermia applied to the rat in the region of the cervical Spinal Cord," Int. J. Hyperthermia, vol. 3(5): pp. 441-452 (1987).	
	D12	Trimedyn, The Less Invasive Laser Advantage, Omni Spinal Introduction System.	
	E12	TROUSSIER, B. et al., "Percutaneous Intradiscal Radio-Frequency Thermocoagulation: A Cadaveric Study", Spine, vol. 20, No. 15, (Aug. 1995), pp. 1713-1718.	
	F12	VORWERCK et al., "Laserablation des Nucleus Pulposus: Optische Eigenschaften von Degeneriertem Bandscheibengewebe im Wellenlangenbereich von 200 bis 2200nm", R&Fo, vol. 151 No. 6, (1989) pp. 725-728.	
	G12	WILKINS et al., Neurosurgery: Method of Making Nervous System Lesions, ch. 337, pp. 2490-2499.	
	H12	WOLGIN et al., "Excimer Ablation of Human Intervertebral Disc at 308 Nanometers", Lasers in Surgery and Medicine, vol. 9, (1989) pp. 124-131.	
A.R.	I12	YONEZAWA et al., "The System and Procedure of Percutaneous Intradiscal Laser Nucleotomy," Spine, vol. 15 No. 11 (1990).	
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